

# Dr. John Gottman's 7 Principles of Successful Relationships

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- 1. Enhance your love maps.** You know all of your partner's relevant information, from life dreams to favorite movies, as a best friend would.
- 2. Nurture fondness and admiration.** You have a positive view and deep appreciation of your partner, and express it.
- 3. Turn toward your partner instead of away during times of stress.** "You want your partner to be that confidante," Gover says.
- 4. Let your partner influence you.** You shouldn't make important life decisions autonomously, as a single person would.
- 5. Solve your solvable problems.** All couples have solvable and perpetual problems, but long-term couples solve those they can and understand there will always be perpetual problems.
- 6. Overcome gridlock.** What often underlies perpetual problems are unfulfilled dreams. Talk about those dreams with the goal of making peace with the problem.
- 7. Create shared meaning.** Develop the big and small rituals that help build the bond with your partners. Rituals range from hosting an annual party to having coffee together in the morning.